

February 21, 2004

FCC
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Leeds City Schools
Formally part of Jefferson County School District

Re: Billed Entity Number: 127957
471 Application Number: 365467
Funding Request Number: 992744
CC Docket Number: 02-6

This letter is a request for review of the denial of funding letter received from the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company dated February 12, 2004. Commitment for Funding Request Number 992744 was denied in full. We respectfully request that this decision be reversed and funding provided, for basic telephone service only, based on the following information.

The Jefferson County School District submitted a 471 (365467) on behalf of the 3 schools in Leeds Alabama. In June of 2003 the Leeds schools separated from Jefferson County and became their own district. A separate and independent entity from Jefferson County that is now known as Leeds City Schools. In July of 2003 Jefferson County directed the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) to cancel that FRN 992744.

The need for telecommunication services for the 3 schools (Elementary, Middle and High) did not change. Jefferson County was able to use Bell South as a service provider for telecommunication service because of a T1 connection back to the Board of Education in Birmingham. When Leeds City Schools became a separate entity, Bell South could no longer provide those services because Alltel is the only telecommunications service provider in the area.

Upon receipt of the SLD letter canceling the FRN we submitted an appeal to the SLD in October 2003. The appeal requested a reversal of the cancellation and subsequent funding based on the fact that Alltel was the only service provider in the area, and that we were no longer part of Jefferson County, and the cancellation was sent in error. It should also be noted that a letter was sent to the SLD by Ben Martin, Jefferson County School District, requesting that authority and responsibility for the 471 and FRN be transferred to the Leeds City Schools.

When the appeal was submitted my superintendent directed me to include funding for wireless telephone service. This was a request for additional funds that were not included in the Form 471. That was an error. As I was new to the requirements of Form 471 filing

and funding commitments, I did what the superintendent told me to. That part of the appeal can be disregarded. This appeal is a request for funding of basic telephone services only.

Your consideration of this matter is most appreciated. I hope these issues can be cleared up so that the new Leeds City Schools system can receive the much needed funding for basic telephone services.

Respectfully,

Gary Ward
Technology Coordinator
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